

WINNEBAGO COUNTY'S OUTDOOR WARNING SIREN ACTIVATION GUIDELINES

In Emergencies:

Under the Direction of the Emergency Management Director or his/her designee, Winnebago County will only activate the County's outdoor warning sirens under the following conditions:

- 1) The National Weather Service places Winnebago County under a "*Tornado Warning*."
- 2) A Winnebago County weather spotter observes an actual funnel cloud, and the sighting is confirmed.
- 3) When there are straight-line winds or downbursts in excess of 90 mph.
- 4) The Emergency Management Director shall have the authority to deviate from the above guidelines based upon each incident's situation. For example: Activating the siren system **prior** to a National Weather Service "*Tornado Warning*" if it is confirmed by trained spotters that a tornado is developing and/or has developed.

Non-Emergencies:

For testing purposes, the outdoor warning sirens will be activated every Saturday from April through September at 12 noon. Under stable weather conditions, for service and repair purposes, sirens may be activated periodically throughout the year.

Remember: These warning sirens are for outdoor warning purposes only. They are not intended to be heard inside buildings. The purpose is to warn people who are outside of impending danger so they can seek shelter. For an indoor warning system, purchase a **NOAA Weather Radio**.

Remember: When you hear a siren, move to cover. Listen to a radio or television for further information.

Remember: Hearing a second siren sound does not mean all is OK, it means another storm cell is on its way.

Remember: Please do not call 9-1-1 to ask why the sirens are activated.